

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that for adjusting the coolant flow from the cooling ducts of an internal combustion engine into a heating heat exchanger with a cut-off valve, with the cooling ducts are additionally connected to an engine cooler via a three-way thermostat, including the steps of interrupting the coolant flow into the heating heat exchanger by the cut-off valve if the temperature of the coolant is below a predefined reference temperature (Ref21a, Ref1b, Ref2Min), and the coolant flow in the combustion ducts is thus stopped; after a first reference temperature (Ref1b) as a preliminary threshold is exceeded, temporarily opening the cut-off valve (14) is temporarily opened, so that the a wax pellet in the three-way thermostat (11) is pre-heated; and the cut-off valve is subsequently closed again until the coolant temperature has reached a second, higher reference value (Ref1a) as an operating threshold.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that wherein if the temperature of the coolant in a lower temperature range between a lower reference temperature (Ref2Min) and an upper reference temperature (Ref2Max) and the a load-dependent, calculated cooling water target temperature simultaneously falls below a third reference value (Ref3), the coolant flow in the cooling ducts of the internal combustion engine is started up by means of correspondingly opening the cut-off valve (14) or the a related valve in the three-way thermostat (11).

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the coolant flow is started up by correspondingly opening the cut-off

valve or a related valve in the three-way thermostat if the calculated, load-dependent coolant target temperature exceeds a comparison value.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that for adjusting the coolant flow from the cooling ducts of an internal combustion engine into a heating heat exchanger with a cut-off valve, with the cooling ducts are additionally connected to an engine cooler via a three-way thermostat, including the steps of interrupting the coolant flow into the heating heat exchanger by the cut-off valve if the temperature of the coolant is below a predefined reference temperature (Ref21a, Ref1b, Ref2Min), and the coolant flow in the combustion ducts is thus stopped; and, if the temperature of the coolant in a lower temperature range between a lower reference temperature (Ref2Min) and an upper reference temperature (Ref2Max) and the a load-dependent, calculated cooling water target temperature simultaneously falls below a third reference value (Ref3), the coolant flow in the cooling ducts of the internal combustion engine is started up by means of correspondingly opening the cut-off valve (14) or the a related valve in the three-way thermostat (11).~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that for adjusting the coolant flow from the cooling ducts of an internal combustion engine into a heating heat exchanger with a cut-off valve, including the steps of interrupting the coolant flow into the heating heat exchanger by the cut-off valve if the temperature of the coolant is below a predefined reference temperature, and the coolant flow in the combustion ducts is thus stopped; and, the coolant flow is started up by correspondingly opening the cut-off valve if the calculated, load-dependent coolant target temperature exceeds a comparison value.~~